

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL MEMORANDUM

SB 5 – HB 10

April 17, 2018

**SUMMARY OF ORIGINAL BILL:** Requires the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) to assess the population, caseload, and number of judges for each judicial district at least two years prior to each August general election, beginning prior to the August 2022 election, and every eight years thereafter.

Requires the AOC to report its findings and any recommended changes to judicial districts to the Judiciary Committee of the Senate and the Civil Justice Committee of the House of Representatives.

FISCAL IMPACT OF ORIGINAL BILL:

Increase State Expenditures – \$150,000/FY18-19 and Every Eight Years Thereafter  
\$50,000/FY19-20 and Every Eight Years Thereafter

**SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT (016840):** Deletes all language after the enacting clause. Adds an additional trial court to the 16<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and 21<sup>st</sup> judicial districts, effective September 1, 2018.

Creates an advisory task force to review the composition of Tennessee's current judicial districts comprised of 11 members including three judges, three district attorneys, and three public defenders representing each grand division of the state and two citizen members. All members are appointed jointly by the Speakers of the Senate and House of Representatives. The task force will be appointed by September 1, 2018, and will cease to exist after recommendations and findings are published for a statewide judicial redistricting plan no later than December 1, 2019.

FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

Increase State Expenditures - \$843,900/FY18-19  
\$893,700/FY19-20 and Subsequent Years

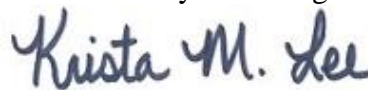
Assumptions for the bill as amended:

- The proposed legislation creates an additional trial court in three judicial districts.

- The Governor shall appoint a person to serve in the judgeships until the August 2020 election.
- The recurring salary and benefits for a trial judge are \$214,910 [\$176,377 salary + (\$176,377 x 0.1177) benefits + (\$128,400 maximum x 0.062) social security + (\$176,377 x 0.0145) Medicare + \$7,254.96 insurance].
- Additionally, the judge position will require recurring funding for supplies, travel, rent, utilities, legal subscriptions, etc., estimated to be \$27,000 per year, and one-time funding of \$23,000 for furniture, computer, software, other equipment, books, etc.
- The court will not be created until September 1, 2018.
- The expenditures relative to each judge position in FY18-19 are estimated to be \$224,584 {[((\$214,910 + \$27,000) x 0.8333) + \$23,000]}.
- Each judge has a legal secretary who receives a salary of \$39,800.
- The recurring salary and benefits for a legal secretary are \$54,784 [\$39,800 salary + (\$39,800 x 0.1177) benefits + (\$39,800 x 0.0765) FICA + \$7,254.96 insurance].
- Additionally, the legal secretary position will require recurring funding for travel estimated to be \$1,200 per year, and one-time funding of \$1,800 for furniture, computer, software, other equipment, etc.
- The expenditures relative to each secretary position in FY18-19 are estimated to be \$48,451 {[((\$54,784 + \$1,200) x 0.8333) + \$1,800]}.
- The total increase in state expenditures in FY18-19 is estimated to be \$819,105 [(\$224,584 + \$48,451) x 3 judicial districts].
- The total recurring increase in state expenditures beginning in FY19-20 is estimated to be \$893,682 [(\$214,910 + \$27,000 + \$54,784 + \$1,200) x 3 judicial districts].
- The eleven members of the task force will receive travel reimbursements for their service. It is assumed the task force will meet at least once per month for 15 months. Further, the meetings will be held throughout the state.
- The total increase in travel reimbursements are estimated to exceed \$20,318 (262 miles x \$0.47 per mile x 15 meetings x 11 members).
- Further, it is assumed there will be an additional one-time expense of \$4,500 for the administration costs associated with the task force.
- The total increase in one-time expenditures for the task force are estimated to be \$24,813 (\$20,318 + \$4,500).

## **CERTIFICATION:**

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



Krista M. Lee, Executive Director

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